

What is the RHAM Inquiry Academy?

The RHAM Inquiry Academy provides students with a more individualized education that allows them the opportunity to explore their areas of interest using an integrated multi-disciplinary approach that emphasizes communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation through inquiry, research and problem-based learning.

Learning activities will encourage them to explore their interests while meeting the competencies required for high school.

An application for this program is enclosed in this brochure. If you would like to apply, please return the application, as well as the student essay to

Dr. Michael Seroussi, Principal, RHAM Middle School (michael.seroussi@rhamschools.org)

or to your child's Elementary School no later than **February 17, 2023**.

Common Questions:

Q: How many students are accepted into the RHAM Inquiry Academy?

A: There are only 40 spots available.

Q: What is the application deadline?

A: All applications are due to RHAM Middle School no later than February 17, 2023.

Q: Is this an "honors" or advanced program?

A: No, as with other teams, honors level classes are offered as well as classes for all levels of learning.

Q: Can my special education student with an IEP be in this program?

A: Yes, but not all typical supports will be available. Co-taught classes are not always available, but the nature of the program will encourage learning in a way that best suits an individual's learning style.

Q: What World Languages are offered in the Inquiry Program?

A: Spanish and French are the two World Languages Inquiry Students can sign up to take.

RHAM Middle School Inquiry Academy



What kind of student will thrive in the Inquiry Academy?

- ⇒ a self directed learner
- ⇒ a self advocate
- ⇒ individually motivated
- ⇒ curious
- ⇒ inquisitive
- ⇒ loves learning

How will the Inquiry Academy work?

- More individualized instruction with an emphasis on peer collaboration and individual accountability.
- Greater depth of understanding of concepts through multilevel, multicultural, and multimedia resources.
- Students will meet the same competencies through multiple pathways.
- Opportunities for learning outside the classroom will allow students to make connections between their learning and the real world, providing a sense of purpose.

What makes the Inquiry Academy different?

- Active student contribution to the curriculum
- Internally motivated
- Interdisciplinary instruction
- Projects based on student interest
- Multiple pathways to success
- Questions drive instruction
- Teachers support and facilitate student inquiry
- Genius Hour class

What is Genius Hour?

Genius Hour is a class in which students design a project of their own interest, and then research and present their learning. It allows students to explore their own ideas and follow their passions. Students are expected to meet presentation, research and time management standards.

What else should I know?

Curriculum – Students will be required to meet all the same competencies as the traditional program.

Instruction – Teachers will follow an inquiry based model with a focus on collaboration and frequent small group work.

Assessment – Assessments will be designed to allow students to show their mastery of a skill or concept in multiple ways.

Schedule – Students follow the middle school schedule, but the Inquiry Academy schedule allows for flexibility of scheduling among core subjects (English, social studies, science and math).

“Inquiry Academy helped to foster, nurture and strengthen my child emotionally and socially. The very nature of the program helped him feel safe to demonstrate his desire to learn.”

-Parent of a former Inquiry Student